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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

Christoph Seidel, et al.

Serial No.:

09/896,032

Filed:

June 29, 2001

For:

METHOD FOR DETERMINING EARLY HCV SEROCONVERSION

Group Art Unit:

1648

Examiner:

D.C. Wortman

September 17, 2002

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME AND FEE

Sir:

Applicants hereby request a three-month extension of time to respond to the Office Action dated March 20, 2002.

The required fee for this three-month extension is \$920.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17. Accordingly, enclosed is a check in the amount of \$920.00 to cover the fee for this Request for Extension of Time. If the fee is missing or insufficient, please charge to Account 500624.

Respectfully submitted,

09/25/2002 MMEKONEN 00000015 09896032

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920.00 OP

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI Ł.L.P.

Norman D. Hanson Reg. No. 30,946

666 Fifth Avenue New York, New York 10103

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